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SUBJECT Espionage

FORREST SAWYER: 1985 is certainly turning out to be the year of the spy, something of a year-long spy thriller. The latest reported defection is from East to West this time, with a high-ranking KGB officer turning himself over to the CIA. But this year we've seen spies trading loyalties in both directions.

This morning we want to ask three top espionage experts what we should make of all this cloak-and-dagger traffic: Stanislav Levchenko, himself a former KGB major, who defected to the United States in 1979. Now, to protect his identity, we're not going to tell you where he is or show you what he looks like.

Joining us from our Washington studios, Senator Patrick Leahy of Vermont. He is Vice Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

And Donald ~~Lemison~~ ^{JAMESON}, a former CIA official who is a specialist on Soviet intelligence and the KGB.

Senator Leahy, let me start with you, if I may. You have recently been briefed about what this Soviet defector, Vitaly Yurchenko (?), who is 50 years old, has been saying. And one of the things that's in the press is he is claiming that CIA employees, or former employees, are double agents.

What do you make of it?

SENATOR PATRICK LEAHY: Well, the CIA has denied that there are any current agents who are double agents who have been penetrated by the KGB, based on anything he said. And I know of nothing that would make me disbelieve that denial by the CIA about current agents.

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